

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original). A crosstie made substantially from recycled rubber comprising:

10-35% by weight recycled rubber from natural rubber tires;
65-90% recycled vulcanized rubber; and,
a strength enhancing polymer of no more than 5% by weight.

Claim 2 (original). The recycled rubber crosstie of claim 1 wherein said crosstie has at least one longitudinal side which has a plurality of indentations.

Claim 3 (currently amended). A method for producing a crosstie made substantially from recycled rubber comprising the steps of:

providing vulcanized recycled crumb rubber and natural recycled crumb rubber;
mixing by weight 10-35% said natural recycled crumb rubber and 65-90% said vulcanized crumb rubber to form a blend; and adding a strength enhancing polymer to said blend, the amount of polymer to add between 0-5% of the total weight of said blend;
milling said blend at between 240 degrees F and 370 degrees F (116-188 deg C) to form an intermediate product;

extruding said intermediate product at between 240 degrees F and 370 degrees F (116-188 deg C) to form an extrusion having a specific width and depth; and,

thereafter cutting said extrusion at intervals to yield the crosstie having the desired length.

Claim 4 (original). The method of claim 3 further comprising after said thereafter cutting said extrusion at intervals to yield a crosstie of the desired length step:

creating a plurality of pre-holes on one longitudinal side of said crosstie, the position of said pre-holes corresponding to the position that spikes will be driven into said crosstie.

Claim 5 (original). The method of producing a crosstie according to claim 3 wherein said strength enhancing polymer is selected from the group comprising neoprene, polyethylene, urethane and ABS.

Claim 6 (original). The method of claim 5 further comprising after said thereafter cutting said extrusion at intervals to yield a crosstie of the desired length step:

creating a plurality of concave-type pre-holes on one longitudinal side of said crosstie, the position of said pre-holes corresponding to the position that spikes will be driven into said crosstie.

Claim 7 (original). The method of producing a crosstie according to claim 3 further including a means to form a plurality of indentations in at least one side of said extrusion.

Claim 8 (original). A crosstic comprising:

an extruded product made from a blend of recycled natural crumb rubber and recycled vulcanized crumb rubber where 10-35% of the crosstie weight is recycled natural rubber, 65-90% of the crosstic weight is recycled vulcanized rubber and a strength enhancing polymer accounts for no more than 5% of the crosstie weight.

Claim 9 (original). The recycled rubber crosstie of claim 6 wherein said crosstic has at least one longitudinal side has a plurality of indentations.